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EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - DECEMBER QUARTER, 1938

The latest available statistics, from various sources, which offer some indication of the movement of Employment and Unemployment throughout Australia have been issued by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

Employment in Factories. The estimated number of persons employed in Australian factories in 1937-38 was 24% greater than in the pre-depression year of 1928-29, and 7% greater than in the year 1936-37. When the growth in employee population is taken into account, the 1937-38 index number was 11% greater than the 1928-29 index and 6% greater than the index for 1936-37. During 1937-38 the latter index rose steadily for the first six months, but declined slightly in the closing months of the year to a level about 5% higher than the average for 1936-37. However, this index has slightly recovered over the first five months of 1938-39, and the figure for November is only just below the average for 1937-38.

A comparison of factory employment in November, 1938 (the latest month for which figures are available for all States) with November, 1937, shows the following estimated percentage changes:- New South Wales, nil; **Victoria, -3.0**; Queensland, +0.8; South Australia, +0.9; Western Australia, nil; Tasmania, -0.8; Australia, -1.1 (or, taking account of the growth of employee population, -2.2).

Employment in Retail Stores. The index number for Australia for the year 1937-38 indicates a 28% increase in employment since July, 1933 (the first date for which figures are available), and a 2% increase since 1936-37. When the growth of employee population is taken into account increases are 22% since July, 1933 and 2% since 1936-37. During the first five months of 1938-39 this latter index has steadily risen, and the November figure is slightly over 1% greater than the average for 1937-38.

A comparison of employment in retail stores in November, 1938 (the latest month for which figures are available for all States) with November, 1937, shows the following estimated percentage changes:- New South Wales, +2.3; Victoria, +2.1; Queensland, +4.5; South Australia, +0.9; Western Australia, nil; Tasmania, +4.0; Australia, +1.9 (or, taking account of the growth of employee population, +0.9).

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS (a)

(Base: Average for year 1928-29 = 100)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia					
																			Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population		
Number of Employees, 1928-29	M.129,539; F. 44,581; T.174,120			M. 98,068; F. 51,198; T.149,266			M. 35,581; F. 7,855; T. 43,436			M. 29,014; F. 6,362; T. 35,376			M. 16,039; F. 3,760; T. 19,799			M.7,703; F.2,281; T.9,984			M.315,944; F.116,037; T.431,981				
Index for 1926-27	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
1927-28	100	98	99	102	99	101	101	89	99	113	109	112	95	91	94	105	88	101	101	98	100	106	102	105
1928-29	99	97	98	100	98	100	101	92	99	106	106	106	98	97	98	107	104	106	100	98	100	102	100	102
1929-30	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1930-31	90	91	90	96	98	97	95	94	94	87	89	87	94	98	94	105	99	104	92	95	93	91	93	92
1931-32	68	75	70	78	83	80	83	85	84	63	71	64	68	76	69	85	83	84	73	79	75	71	76	72
1932-33	66	79	69	77	90	81	78	84	79	61	76	64	61	75	63	84	87	85	70	84	74	68	80	71
1933-34	73	86	76	87	101	92	80	92	82	68	84	71	68	81	70	86	90	87	78	93	82	74	87	77
1934-35	82	94	85	96	107	100	86	99	88	77	89	80	75	85	77	93	89	92	86	99	90	81	92	84
1935-36	93	107	97	106	113	108	92	105	94	89	97	91	83	92	85	101	97	100	96	108	100	89	99	92
1936-37	104	116	107	117	119	117	97	110	99	104	110	105	99	106	100	112	103	110	107	116	109	98	105	100
1937-38 (b)	112	125	115	123	121	123	103	116	106	110	113	111	107	113	108	122	103	118	114	121	116	104	108	105
	(c)	(c)	125	133	125	131	110	121	112	116	118	116	109	117	110	129	106	123	123	127	124	111	112	111
1936 - November	112	127	116	124	123	124	107	119	109	105	112	106	108	115	109	121	99	116	114	123	117	104	110	106
December	112	125	116	124	120	123	103	117	105	110	113	111	110	116	111	124	103	119	115	121	116	104	108	105
1937 - January	111	118	113	121	113	118	91	109	94	109	108	109	109	112	110	125	99	119	112	114	113	102	102	102
February	114	126	117	125	125	125	96	115	99	114	118	115	109	113	110	132	112	128	115	124	118	105	110	106
March	115	130	119	127	126	127	99	118	102	115	119	116	110	112	110	133	117	129	117	126	119	106	112	108

MONTHLY INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT - EXCLUDING WORKING PROPRIETORS
(Continued)

Period	New South Wales			Victoria			Queensland			South Australia			Western Australia			Tasmania			Australia						
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	Unadjusted Index			Index divided by Index of Employee Population			
1937 - April	114	129	118	129	126	128	101	114	104	119	120	120	109	111	109	130	106	125	118	125	120	107	111	108	
May	115	128	119	127	122	125	105	116	107	120	117	119	108	111	109	127	105	122	118	123	119	107	109	108	
June	117	128	120	126	120	124	109	115	110	119	116	118	107	110	108	123	104	119	119	122	120	107	108	108	
July (b))	not avail- able			120	127	118	124	111	121	113	115	111	115	106	113	108	120	101	115	119	120	120	108	107	108
August)				123	128	121	126	116	127	118	115	113	114	108	113	109	119	100	115	121	123	122	109	109	110
September)				123	132	123	129	116	125	117	114	114	114	110	116	111	121	93	114	123	124	123	111	110	111
October)				126	133	128	131	114	130	117	113	117	113	110	118	112	125	98	119	123	129	125	111	114	112
November)				127	135	129	133	117	124	118	114	118	114	109	118	111	126	98	120	125	130	126	113	115	113
December)				128	137	129	134	110	123	112	117	116	117	110	120	112	131	102	124	125	130	127	113	115	114
1938 - January)				not avail- able			123	134	116	128	98	112	100	116	117	116	109	119	111	133	115	129	122	119	122
February)	125	134	131				133	104	121	107	120	120	120	109	123	112	134	115	130	123	130	125	111	115	112
March)	127	139	134				137	107	120	110	119	125	120	110	119	112	136	119	132	126	133	128	113	117	114
April)	126	137	127				134	107	121	109	119	125	120	110	115	111	135	110	129	125	129	126	112	114	113
May)	126	132	128				131	110	117	111	115	122	116	109	115	110	133	112	128	123	130	125	110	114	111
June)	127	130	122				127	112	118	113	110	114	111	106	113	107	131	112	126	122	127	123	110	111	110
July)							126	129	118	125	113	121	114	112	111	112	107	117	109	126	109	122	122	123	123
August)				127	128	123	126	120	126	121	112	115	112	107	116	108	126	110	122	123	127	124	110	111	110
September)				127	131	122	127	121	125	122	113	117	114	107	116	109	124	102	119	124	125	124	111	110	111
October)				127	130	123	128	116	133	119	114	118	115	109	118	111	127	102	122	123	128	125	110	112	111
November)				127	132	123	129	118	125	119	114	119	115	109	119	111	126	98	119	124	127	125	111	111	111
Number of Factories in Sample	1901			100			150			147			92			49			2439						
Percentage of employees in sample in 1936-37	86			21			47			62			33			57			54						

- (a) The indexes for 1936-37 are based on the final factory returns. From July, 1937 the indexes have been computed on the basis of the 1936-37 final figures.
- (b) After June, 1937, indexes are based on sample returns. Thereafter male and female indexes for Australia are calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in the five States other than New South Wales for which sample masculinity figures are not available.
- (c) Not available.

MALES EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL PERSONS
EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES

Year	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	AUSTRALIA
1926-27	74.8	66.3	83.8	82.4	81.7	80.2	73.8
1927-28	74.8	66.2	83.2	82.0	81.2	77.6	73.6
1928-29	74.4	65.7	81.9	82.0	81.0	77.2	73.1
1929-30	74.1	65.1	81.9	81.7	80.3	78.2	72.7
1930-31	72.6	64.4	81.6	80.2	79.3	77.5	71.5
1931-32	70.7	62.1	80.8	78.6	77.6	76.6	69.5
1932-33	71.0	62.2	79.8	78.5	78.2	76.4	69.4
1933-34	71.5	63.2	79.7	79.8	78.9	77.9	70.2
1934-35	71.8	64.1	79.7	80.8	79.4	78.0	70.8
1935-36	72.2	65.3	80.0	81.2	80.1	78.6	71.5
1936-37	72.2	66.1	80.1	81.6	80.3	80.0	72.0
1937-38	n.a.	67.0	80.4	81.8	79.9	80.3	72.4
1936 -							
November	71.9	65.9	80.2	80.9	79.9	80.4	71.7
December	72.2	66.4	79.8	81.7	80.1	80.3	72.1
1937 -							
January	73.2	67.3	79.1	82.2	80.5	81.1	72.8
February	72.4	65.7	79.0	81.5	80.4	80.0	71.7
March	72.0	65.9	79.2	81.6	80.7	79.3	71.7
April	72.0	66.2	80.1	81.9	80.8	80.5	72.0
May	72.3	66.6	80.3	82.3	80.5	80.3	72.3
June	72.7	66.8	81.2	82.4	80.6	80.0	72.7
July (a)	n.a.	67.2	80.7	82.6	80.0	80.0	(b)72.8
August	n.a.	66.9	80.5	82.3	80.3	80.1	72.6
September	n.a.	67.3	80.8	82.0	80.1	81.4	72.7
October	n.a.	66.6	80.0	81.4	80.0	81.1	72.0
November	n.a.	66.7	81.0	81.5	79.7	81.3	72.2
December	n.a.	67.1	80.1	82.2	79.7	81.2	72.4
1938 -							
January	n.a.	69.0	79.8	82.0	79.6	79.5	73.4
February	n.a.	66.2	79.6	82.0	79.2	79.7	71.6
March	n.a.	66.6	80.2	81.2	79.8	79.5	71.9
April	n.a.	67.4	80.0	81.3	80.3	80.5	72.5
May	n.a.	66.5	81.0	81.1	80.1	80.0	72.0
June	n.a.	67.0	81.0	81.5	79.9	79.7	72.5
July	n.a.	67.6	80.8	82.2	79.6	79.6	72.9
August	n.a.	66.6	81.2	81.5	79.6	79.3	72.3
September	n.a.	67.3	81.5	81.5	79.8	80.5	72.8
October	n.a.	67.0	79.7	81.5	79.7	80.8	72.3
November	n.a.	67.2	81.1	81.3	79.7	81.3	72.6

n.a. not available.

Note: This table has been revised to exclude working proprietors.

(a) From July, 1937 the percentages are based on estimates computed from returns from "sample" factories.

(b) From July, 1937 the percentage for Australia is calculated on the assumption that the change in masculinity in the six States is equal to the change in the five States, other than New South Wales, for which sample masculinity figures are not available.

MONTHLY INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT IN RETAIL STORES

(Base: July, 1933 = 100)

Month	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Australia	
							Unadjusted Index	Index divided by Index of Employee Population
Index for -								
1933-34	103	107	101	102	99	106	104	103
1934-35	111	118	106	108	105	108	112	110
1935-36	118	130	109	114	110	112	119	116
1936-37	124	137	111	115	115	119	125	120
1937-38	130	141	112	115	116	118	128	122
1936 -								
November	123	139	111	115	116	119	125	121
December	137	155	121	125	127	132	138	133
1937 -								
January	123	138	112	112	116	120	125	120
February	125	137	111	111	114	122	125	120
March	123	135	111	111	114	118	123	118
April	124	136	109	113	114	120	124	119
May	126	138	111	114	113	121	126	120
June	126	141	110	114	113	121	126	121
July	129	137	110	115	115	124	127	121
August	126	133	110	112	113	121	124	118
September	126	135	110	117	113	123	125	119
October	127	140	110	113	114	123	127	121
November	129	143	110	115	116	125	129	123
December	144	161	123	129	126	138	144	137
1938 -								
January	128	144	111	115	122	126	129	123
February	131	139	111	112	116	124	128	122
March	128	140	110	112	115	123	127	121
April	129	140	112	113	117	125	128	121
May	129	141	112	114	115	126	128	122
June	131	142	113	114	114	126	129	122
July	134	139	111	114	120	130	129	123
August	129	135	111	112	113	127	126	119
September	128	137	111	118	114	127	127	120
October	129	142	110	113	115	128	128	121
November	132	146	115	116	116	130	131	124
Number of establishments now furnishing returns	599	102	120	35	69	14	939	939

INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND.

Working from the basis of the results of the Census of 30th June, 1933, and from compilations made from returns of employers in remitting wages tax and returns collected from Government Departments, the Government Statistician of New South Wales has prepared an index of employment and unemployment covering all persons dependent on employment in New South Wales. The Director of the Bureau of Industry of Queensland publishes an index of employment and unemployment among men wage and salary earners. The data for this index are derived from information relating to Unemployment Insurance contributions and other sources. The results are given below -

NEW SOUTH WALES

Percentages of Employment and Unemployment - All available wage-earners (a) Including and (b) Excluding as employed the full-time equivalent of men engaged part-time on relief works.

Period	Percentage of all who are dependent on and available for employment.			
	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of all part-time relief workers		(b) Including all part-time relief workers as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
Census of 30th June, 1933	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1934 - June ..	80.5	19.5	77.8	22.2
1935 - June ..	85.9	14.1	83.1	16.9
1936 - June ..	89.3	10.7	87.1	12.9
1937 - June ..	93.5	6.5	92.3	7.7
November ..	96.9	3.1	95.7	4.3
December ..	97.2	2.8	96.0	4.0
1938 - January ..	94.6	5.4	93.5	6.5
February ..	96.0	4.0	95.0	5.0
March ..	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
April ..	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
May ..	95.8	4.2	94.8	5.2
June ..	96.1	3.9	95.1	4.9
July ..	95.9	4.1	94.9	5.1
August ..	95.3	4.7	94.2	5.8
September ..	95.8	4.2	94.8	5.2
October ..	95.4	4.6	94.3	5.7
November ..	95.6	4.4	94.6	5.4

The indexes were revised in November, 1937. In estimating the increase in the number of persons dependent on employment allowance is now made for (a) increase in the proportion of females who are wage-earners, and (b) youths who were without occupation but were not recorded in the wage-earning group at the Census of 1933. Adjustment for seasonal variations in employment is not made except in respect of casual retail employees in December.

At the Census of 30th June, 1933, 15,142 persons dependent on employment returned themselves as unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc. or "voluntarily". This number, representing 1.8 per cent. of all persons dependent on employment is excluded from the above indexes, which relate to percentages of available wage-earners, employed and unemployed.

The approximate number of persons in private employment was 478,000 in June, 1933; 653,000 in June, 1937; and 693,000 in November, 1938.

QUEENSLAND

Employment and Unemployment among Men Wage and Salary Earners

Period	(a) Including as employed the full-time equivalent of part-time relief workers		(b) Including "Inter-mittent Relief Workers" as unemployed	
	Employed	Unemployed	Employed	Unemployed
3 months ended -				
1933 - June ..	79.0	21.0	72.9	27.1
1934 - June ..	85.0	15.0	80.2	19.8
1935 - June ..	85.9	10.1	85.2	14.8
1936 - June ..	91.8	8.2	86.4	13.6
1937 - June ..	94.3	5.7	90.5	9.5
October ..	95.2	4.8	91.5	8.5
November ..	95.2	4.8	91.7	8.3
December ..	95.5	4.5	91.9	8.1
1938 - January ..	95.4	4.6	91.8	8.2
February ..	95.3	4.7	91.8	8.2
March ..	95.4	4.6	91.7	8.3
April ..	95.2	4.8	91.6	8.4
May ..	95.3	4.7	91.7	8.3
June ..	95.4	4.6	91.8	8.2
July ..	95.7	4.3	92.1	7.9
August ..	95.9	4.1	92.5	7.5
September ..	96.0	4.0	92.8	7.2
October ..	95.5	4.5	93.2	6.8

The above table is in terms of full-time employment and unemployment. Normal seasonal variation is excluded. Allowance has been made for an estimated annual increase of 1.5% in the number of men dependent on employment. The approximate number of men in employment for the three months ended October, 1938, excluding relief workers, was 177,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT
QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1938

The figures relating to unemployment among members of Trade Unions are, similarly to those published in the past, derived from returns furnished by Trade Unions.

The percentages of recorded unemployment among members of reporting Trade Unions for Australia as a whole are given below for the June quarter of 1932, when unemployment was at its maximum and for each quarter from December, 1933 onwards:-

<u>AUSTRALIA</u>			
1932 - June quarter	30.0	per cent.	
1933 - December quarter	23.0	" "	
1934 - March quarter	21.9	" "	
June "	20.9	" "	
September"	20.4	" "	
December "	18.8	" "	
1935 - March quarter	18.6	" "	
June "	17.8	" "	
September"	15.9	" "	
December "	13.7	" "	
1936 - March quarter	13.4	" "	
June "	12.8	" "	
September"	12.0	" "	
December "	10.7	" "	
1937 - March quarter	9.9	" "	
June "	9.7	" "	
September"	9.3	" "	
December "	8.2	" "	
1938 - March quarter	8.0	" "	
June "	8.6	" "	
September"	9.2	" "	
December "	8.9	" "	

It should be noted that the figures refer to the mid-month of each quarter, and represent the conditions at the middle of that month. Consequently, the latest figures referred to herein relate to the middle of November, 1938.

Following the peak point (30 per cent.) in unemployment attained in the June quarter of 1932 the percentage dropped continuously to 8 per cent. in the March quarter of 1938, the lowest figure since August, 1927, when it was 6.7 per cent. In each of the next two quarters, however, the figure rose by 0.6 per cent. or 6 per 1,000 members, but fell again by 0.3 per cent. or 3 per 1,000 members in the December quarter, 1938.

Since the maximum point in May, 1932, the rate of unemployment has diminished by 211 per 1,000 members, i.e. from 30 per cent. in May, 1932 to 8.9 per cent. in November, 1938. The improvement has been experienced in all the States in the following order (per 1,000 members) - South Australia, 264; Western Australia, 238; New South Wales, 231; Victoria, 187; Queensland, 142; Tasmania, 137.

The usual tables for Trade Union Unemployment are appended.

AUSTRALIA

Number and Membership of Trade Unions Reporting and Number
and Percentage of Unemployed
March quarter, 1929 to December quarter,
1938

Australia	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	December Quarter 1937	June Quarter 1938	September Quarter 1938	December Quarter 1938
Number of Unions	375	396	394	394	387	386	394	395
Membership	420,756	413,742	415,559	422,113	455,608	464,208	468,634	471,581
Unemployed - Number	39,159	124,068	106,652	88,413	37,558	39,824	43,092	42,077
Percentage	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	8.2	8.6	9.2	8.9

STATES

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions
Reported as Unemployed in each State
March quarter, 1929 to December quarter, 1938

State	March Quarter 1929	June Quarter 1932	June Quarter 1933	June Quarter 1934	December Quarter 1937	June Quarter 1938	September Quarter 1938	December Quarter 1938
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New South Wales	9.7	33.2	29.6	25.0	10.1	9.8	10.0	10.1
Victoria	8.6	27.7	23.0	18.0	7.3	8.5	9.7	9.0
Queensland	7.1	19.9	15.6	12.7	6.6	7.2	6.3	5.7
South Australia	13.2	35.2	30.0	25.4	6.5	7.5	10.0	8.8
Western Australia	8.5	30.3	26.0	18.3	5.0	5.3	6.1	6.5
Tasmania	8.7	27.4	19.0	17.9	10.2	10.4	12.1	13.7
TOTAL	9.3	30.0	25.7	20.9	8.2	8.6	9.2	8.9

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